

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
870 Moraine Street  
Marshfield, MA 02050

**MARSHFIELD'S COVID – 19 TASK FORCE UPDATE**

May 6, 2020

**Task Force:** Police, Fire, Board of Health, Board of Selectmen, Emergency Operation Center, Town Administrator, Schools, DPW and Council on Aging.

**To All Marshfield Residents:**

**This update is intended to inform Marshfield residents and visitors that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, per the MAVEN database, is reporting that as of May 6, 2020 there are at least 606 suspected and/or confirmed cases of Covid-19.**

**The number of confirmed cases in Marshfield is 129.**

**We regret to report that to date, there have been 7 deaths in our community attributed to Covid-19.**

Governor Baker has issued an [Order](#) effective Wednesday, May 6 requiring face masks or cloth face coverings in public places where social distancing is not possible. This applies to both indoor and outdoor spaces. Exceptions include children under the age of 2 and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition. Read the full DPH [Guidance](#).

## **Tips on the Proper Use of Masks and Face Coverings**

There are many things that you can do to help protect yourself and others from becoming infected with COVID-19. People who show no symptoms of illness may still be able to spread COVID-19. A face covering may help prevent you from spreading COVID-19 to other people.

- A face covering can include anything that covers your nose and mouth, including dust masks, scarves and bandanas.
- Do not use health care worker masks, such as the N95 masks - those should be preserved for healthcare workers.
- It is important that you wear these face coverings or masks in situations where it is difficult to maintain a social distance of six feet from others. For example, in a pharmacy or grocery store.

When you wear a cloth mask, it should:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face,
- Be secured with ties or ear loops,
- Include multiple layers of fabric,
- Allow for breathing without restriction, and
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

When putting on and taking off a mask, do not touch the front of it, you should only handle the ties or ear straps, and make sure you wash the cloth mask regularly. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after touching the mask.

Cloth masks should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

**[Face Covering Do's and Don'ts](#)** and instructions on **[how to make your own cloth mask](#)** are available on the CDC web site.

**In addition to wearing a cloth mask you should continue to practice proven methods to protect yourself.**

- Practice social distancing at all times by remaining 6 feet away from others when you have to leave your home for essential trips.
- Stay home if you are sick and avoiding close contact with others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; using alcohol-based hand gel with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Clean things that are frequently touched (like doorknobs and countertops) with household cleaning spray or wipes.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Use a tissue or your inner elbow, not your hands.

#### **Daily update BOH**

#### **Update on Contact Tracing**

On April 3, the Baker-Polito Administration announced an initiative to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts through contact tracing. Working with Partners in Health, Massachusetts was the first state in the nation to develop a program to trace individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 as well as their immediate contacts who may have been exposed to the virus. Through a team of leading medical experts working with the Department of Public Health, this program has already hired 176 employees to do contact tracing by phone, and hundreds of additional staff will be trained and on board in the coming weeks.

**Residents who receive a phone call from the Contact Tracing Collaborative are urged to take the call and provide the relevant information.**

**The Board of Health would like to remind residents not to inject or ingest disinfectants, bleach or rubbing alcohol.**

#### **May is Mental Health Month**

Secretary Sudders, a social worker, and former Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health wants to alert residents on the importance of caring for our mental health during the pandemic. From loneliness and situational depression resulting from isolation, anxiety from the fear of the illness, grief from losses, to worrying about

economic security, these stresses are significant and can affect our mental well-being and that of our loved ones. Nearly half of Americans report that the coronavirus has had a negative impact on their mental health – as reported in an issue paper reported by the Kaiser family Foundation in April.

- If you, or someone you care about, are feeling overwhelmed with emotions like sadness or anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or others, **CALL2Talk** is a resource available through **2-1-1** line.
- In March, the Administration launched the Massachusetts Network of Care, a searchable behavioral health directory of services and organizations dedicated to helping preserve and protect your mental health.
- This website connects Massachusetts residents with information in multiple languages on behavioral health services and treatment in their communities – including more than 5,000 organizations – searchable by keywords and zip codes.

## **TOWN OF MARSHFIELD**

### **MARINA AND BOATING GUIDANCE ORDER**

#### **1. Marinas:**

##### **a. General Closure Order.**

All marinas within the limits of the Town of Marshfield remain closed through May 18, 2020 as per Governor Baker’s extension of the stay at home and essential business orders.

Marinas are defined as “any water area with a structure (docks, basin, floating docks, etc.) which is: (a) used for docking or otherwise mooring vessels to a dock or pier; and (b) constructed or maintained to provide temporary or permanent docking space for more than ten (10) boats.” For clarification purposes, the definition of marina shall not include a boat at a properly licensed and approved single mooring or a floating dock for less than ten (10) boats that is meaningfully separated from fixed-in-place marina slips on property owned or controlled by a marina.

Marina owners and operators shall be directly responsible for monitoring compliance with the Governor’s orders, this order and enforcement on their properties of these restrictions.

##### **b. Exceptions:**

- i. Marinas may permit only boat owners with active, in season\* commercial fishing licenses to use slips or otherwise mooring vessels to a dock or pier. (For example, a recreational boater may not claim that they are a commercial fisherman if they are a holder of a seasonal striped bass commercial permit or any other type of fishing commercial permit until and unless the season for that particular type of fish is in

open season). \* as determined by National Marine Fisheries and National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration.

- ii. Commercial lobster or other commercial ground fishing vessels owned by persons and entities that are principally and primarily devoted to wholesale and retail sales of fish are exempted from this order.
- iii. Marinas may allow boats that must be safety inspected in the water by the United States Coast Guard to be docked or moored in a marina for the express purpose of a required safety inspection; however, this exception shall not be construed as permitting use of said slips or mooring to docks in a marina following the completion of the inspection.
- iv. Marinas may continue to provide essential services authorized under the Governor's essential services orders, provide fuel for vessels, and perform through its own staff or outside licensed technicians necessary maritime repair services; however, marinas shall not then permit recreational boats or out of season commercial fishing vessels to use the marinas before or after said repairs as a convenience.
- v. Public safety and governmental vessels are exempted from any restrictions on marinas.
- vi. Boats that were installed in the water by April 30, 2020 shall be allowed to remain; however, marinas shall not allow any new boats to be placed in marinas unless excepted.

Under no circumstances shall marina owners or operators permit recreational boat owners to perform in-water, cleaning or annual maintenance on any vessels docked at a marina under the guise of the marine repair exception.

Maritime transportation workers, including dredgers, port workers, mariners, ship crewmembers, ship pilots and tugboat operators, equipment operators (to include maintenance and repair, and maritime-specific medical providers), ship supply, chandler, and repair companies have all been deemed essential services under the Governor's order and may use marinas.

## **2. Boat ramps and launches:**

The following regulations shall apply to boat ramps and launches:

### **a. Coastal boat ramps:**

Coastal boat ramps and launches on town and marina property shall remain open for use by boats being launched by vehicles registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, except where the access has already been closed due to parking restrictions or other restrictions. Parking for the purpose of accessing coastal beaches is prohibited.

**b. Inland boat ramps and canoe launches:**

Inland boat ramps and canoe launches within town and state parks, forests, wildlife management areas, boating access facilities and other town and state owned properties managed by the Town of Marshfield and/or Commonwealth of Massachusetts remain open for use by boats being launched by vehicles registered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, except where the access has already been closed due to parking restrictions or other restrictions.

**c. User Guidelines for all boat ramps and launches:**

- i. Ramps remain open subject to available parking. A ramp will be considered closed if all parking is full. Illegally parked cars will be ticketed and may be towed.
- ii. All boat ramp and canoe launch users shall practice social distancing. Users should allow appropriate space for users of the boat ramp or launch and clear the ramp when users launch is complete.
- iii. Users should ensure they are ready to depart quickly from the ramp or dock as soon as their boat is put into the water. Users not actively launching their boat should clear the launch area.
- iv. Upon return to ramp, users should load their boat as quickly as safely possible and then clear the launch area.
- v. Use of ramps and parking areas for organized fishing tournaments, derbies, or any other type of gathering is prohibited.
- vi. Loitering on ramps or use of ramps for any activity other than launching boats is prohibited. Parking at ramps for activities other than launching boats is prohibited.
- vii. Masks or face-coverings should be worn in public in accordance with the Department of Public Health's advisory when social distancing is not possible.

**3. Recreational boating (other than from marinas):**

The safe operation of recreational boats is permitted under the following guidelines:

- \* Only persons from the same household should be together on a boat at one time.
- \* No gathering or groups of persons from multiple households will be permitted on boat ramps, docks, piers etc., and all users shall practice strict social distancing.
- \* All recreational crafts shall remain a safe distance apart. Tying boats or other crafts together is prohibited.

- \* All recreational boating is subject to the discretion of local officials, harbor masters, and law enforcement.
- \* All other local rules, regulations, laws and Coast Guard requirements still apply.

#### **4. For Hire Boating (at marinas or otherwise):**

For hire boating is not be permitted while the Governor's stay at home advisory and essential services order is in effect. This includes:

- \* Charter and head boat fishing
- \* Sailboat rentals and lessons
- \* Canoe, kayak, and stand-up paddleboard rentals
- \* White water rafting and river tubing rentals
- \* Whale watches and other pleasure cruises
- \* Any other operation or use of a vessel that is not registered to the passenger.

#### **5. Violations.**

This marina and boating guidance emergency order issued pursuant to MGL c. 111 §§ 95-105, 310 CMR 11.05, 105 CMR 300.200 and all other authorizing statutes and regulation shall be effective beginning Friday, May 1, 2020 at 6:00AM and remain in effect through the later to occur of May 18, 2020 or to such other date pursuant to the Board of Health's judgement that the Public Health Emergency no longer exists, this order is superseded by order of the Governor.

To the extent necessary, this Order shall be enforced by Board of Health officials, Code Enforcement and Building Inspectors, and the Marshfield Police and the Harbor Master.

All marinas and yacht clubs must post a copy of this Order at all entry points to all docks.

Boat owners and marina owners and operators not adhering to the requirements shall face fines for a First Offense – Written Warning, Second and Subsequent Offense - \$300 per violation. Every boat or slip that is used in violation of this order shall constitute a separate offense and each day of any such violations shall constitute a new day of violations.

### **MARSHFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH**

Tyler Nims, Chairman, Board of Health  
Mark MacDonald, Vice-Chairman, Board of Health  
Paul Armstrong, Member, Board of Health

**The BOH has ensured that Local Supermarkets** are following the directive to limit the number of people in each facility at one time. **Now it is time to do your part.** Plan your trip and try to shop alone. **Shopping is not a social event** and should only be done when it is time to get a proper supply of foods and essential items (resist the one item temptations, the Twinkies' can wait). The **workers** in these establishments are **essential personnel** and deserve our respect for their service. Please observe the social distancing of 6' from other shoppers and staff while they perform the tasks that provide us with the foods we need. Follow the arrows guiding traffic patterns as you go through the store. When standing in line outside the building social distances also applies.

**Personal protective equipment, or PPE:** protects its user against any physical harm or hazards that the environment may present **ONLY WHEN USED CORRECTLY!** People often get a false sense of security when using and forget.

- There is no substitute for proper hand washing/sanitizing and be mindful to do so before and after use.
- Understand how to use and remove the PPE. (improper use can do more harm than good)
- Please properly dispose of the PPE after use.

**Buoy Health's new online resource:** for residents to check their symptoms and connect with the next appropriate health care resource. This tool does not replace emergency medical care, but it may be used as a support for residents during the COVID-19 outbreak to connect them with appropriate health care resources if they display coronavirus symptoms. Buoy Health's online 24/7 tool is free for Massachusetts residents and uses current COVID-19 guidance from the CDC and DPH. As always, your first choice is to contact your own health care provider. Buoy's online tool is not to be used in place of emergency medical care. If this is an emergency, call 911 or visit the nearest emergency room.

**[www.Buoy.com/mass](http://www.Buoy.com/mass)**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that Massachusetts 2-1-1., a 24-hour telephone hotline, will now provide real-time COVID-19 information, resources, and referrals in multiple languages. **<https://mass211.org/>**

**Additional updated information from MEMA on COVID-19:**

**<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-emergency-management-agency>**



## DPW News

The Transfer Station is open to residents to drop off bulk items when purchasing a sticker. Residential Construction & Demolition (weigh and pay) debris is also now being accepted. Pot hole repairs will be ongoing beginning the week of May 4. Water leak repairs are ongoing, along with addressing drainage issues

## General Information

**I also want to remind residents that all recreational facilities in the Town of Marshfield are closed to the public except the beaches to protect the public from the further spread of COVID-19 to our residents. However a number of the beach parking lots are closed at this time.**

## SCHOOL INFORMATION

Governor Baker announced yesterday, schools in Massachusetts, both public and private will be closed for the remainder of the academic year.

## TREASURER COLLECTOR INFORMATION

Below you will find the necessary paper work to request a hardship waiver from the Town of Marshfield for real estate taxes, excise taxes and utility bills.



TOWN OF MARSHFIELD  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER-COLLECTOR  
870 MORaine STREET MARSHFIELD, MA 02050

## COVID -19 FINANCIAL HARDSHIP WAIVERS

NAME OF APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF APPLICATION: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROOF OF HARDSHIP – PLEASE MARK “X”:**

**UNEMPLOYMENT APPLICATION:**

**PROOF OF CLOSED BUSINESS:**

**MEDICAL WAIVER:**

**TYPE OF BILL (S) NEEDING RELIEF – PLEASE MARK “X”**

**REAL ESTATE TAXES:**

**EXCISE TAXES:**

**UTILITY BILLS:**

**BELOW SECTION IS FOR TOWN OF MARSHFIELD STAFF**

APPLICATION WAS RECEIVED ON: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION WAS APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION WAS DENIED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

REASON: \_\_\_\_\_

REQUESTED APPEAL TO TOWN ADMINISTRATOR BY PATRICK DELLORUSSO ON: \_\_\_\_\_



TOWN OF MARSHFIELD  
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER-COLLECTOR  
870 MORaine STREET  
MARSHFIELD MA 02050

**FREQUENTLY ASKED COVID-19 QUESTIONS ANSWERED BELOW**

**Is there someone working today?**

**The Treasurer-Collector office has been open and responding to residents each day during the crisis and ensuring the Town has the resources it needs to provide safety and services. We will continue this mission.**

You may always email questions to [pdellorusso@townofmarshfield.org](mailto:pdellorusso@townofmarshfield.org) this will get you a response very quickly.

**BEST WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILLS:**

- Please visit our website and select the "FIND IT FAST" option
- Next select online bill payments and enter your bill information
- If you do not have your bill information, please email [pdellorusso@townofmarshfield.org](mailto:pdellorusso@townofmarshfield.org) and the Treasurer will make sure you are responded to within 24 hours
- You may also call the main line at 781-834-5548 and someone will return your call within 24 hours as we have limited staff and they will guide you on how to make a payment online.
- You may mail in your payments with the remittance coupon to the lockbox provider.
- You may drop your payment off in the mail drop slot located near the handicap ramp at the front of Town Hall when you walk up from the parking lot. You may call for further instructions.
- You may also mail payments directly to our office at:

**870 Moraine Street, Marshfield MA, 02050 Attn: Collector**

**REAL ESTATE TAXES:**

- The tax deadline for quarter four (4) real estate bills will not be changed from its dead line of May 1<sup>st</sup>.

- If a resident has been impacted by the COVID-19 virus they may like all other delinquent tax payers set up a re-payment plan with the Tax office.
- All payments must be current by 6-30-20 by vote of the Board of Selectman. Any payment not received by then will be subject to interest.
- If you do not notify the tax office of your inability to pay you will be assessed interest and fees in accordance with the Law.
- There will be no refunds of any interest or demands
  - You must show proof of your COVID-19 impact i.e. unemployment application and acceptance and or termination notice. The Treasurer will examine each request for a hardship arrangement on a case by case basis in accordance with the Board of Selectman Vote.
- The Town will be issuing demand and bills normally and it is the responsibility of the homeowner to show proof of hardship. **Demand bills will be issued 6-1-2020** to all accounts with a balance on record, and Tax liens will follow in line with normal collection action after this date.

#### UTILITY BILLS:

- The deadlines for the utilities bills are 30 days after issuance
- The Town of Marshfield in line with the Governor's Order will not be terminating utility services until an undetermined time after 6-30-2020.
- All balances must be current by 6-30-2020
- Failure to pay your bill will result in the utility charges being added to your tax bill as a utility lien next year while incurring interest and fees per MGL.
- There will be no refunds of any interest or demands
  - You must show proof of your COVID-19 impact i.e. unemployment application and acceptance and or termination notice. The Treasurer will examine each request for a hardship arrangement on a case by case basis in accordance with the Board of Selectman Vote.
- If you do not notify the tax office of your inability to pay you will be assessed interest and fees in accordance with the Law.
- If a resident has been impacted by the COVID-19 virus they may like all other delinquent tax payers set up a re-payment plan with the Tax office.
- The Town will be issuing demands and bills normally and it is the responsibility of the resident to show proof of a hardship.

#### EXCISE TAXES:

- Excise taxes will not be sent to collections until 6-30-2020; however interest will accrue on all delinquent balances and unless hardship is show, will not be waived.
- Excise taxes issued after 3-20-20 will not receive demands until 6-30-2020
- Marshfield Excise tax bills for commitment #1 were issued prior to the Declaration of emergency and are not subject to hardship waivers by law.
  - However Marshfield will if a resident is able to show proof of a COVID-19 impact i.e. unemployment application and acceptance and or termination notice. The Treasurer will examine each request for a hardship arrangement on a case by case basis in accordance with the Board of Selectman Vote.

The Treasurer's Office looks forward to remaining open for business and is here to help any resident who needs it and will remain fair and consistent while understanding the unique situations of all.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office for anything and we will get you the answers your looking for!!!1

Patrick D. Dello Russo JR.

## **Fire Department:**

Anyone experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID – 19 such as difficulty breathing or chest pain should call 911 and activate EMS. Other minor symptoms, including a low grade fever, you should call your PCP for recommended treatment. Most cases with minor to moderate symptoms can be safely managed at home without going to the hospital. AS always, with any other medical emergencies, call 911 and activate EMS right away.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY RESIDENTS ARE REMINDED THAT JUST BECAUSE YOU MAY BE EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 VIRUS DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU NEED TO CALL 911 FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. EIGHTY PERCENT (80%) OF PERSONS WHO BECOME EXPOSED WILL BE ABLE TO MANAGE THEIR CARE ON THEIR OWN AND BY CONTACTING THEIR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.**

## **HERE ARE THE BOARD OF HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEDICAL CARE:**

Call **911** for **severe** shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. The Massachusetts Department of Health (DPH) says do not wait for the results of a COVI-19 test to call 911.

Call a health care provider for shortness of breath or other serious symptoms. DPH says to continue to self-isolate if symptoms are becoming more severe.

## **For people with mild symptoms:**

Early on, symptoms may feel like a common cold, including a combination of cough, body aches, fatigue, and chest tightness.

**People who are not at high risk of severe illness may not need to be evaluated in-person or tested for COVID-19.** Not everyone with symptoms or who may have been exposed to COVID-19 will be tested right away.

If you have mild symptoms including a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or suspect that you were exposed but are not able to be immediately tested, please stay home and avoid contact with others. Isolate yourself until:

- \* You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that's 3 days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)

AND

- \* other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved)

AND

- \* At least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

Use over-the-counter medication to treat mild symptoms.

There is currently no specific treatment for COVID-19.

**The 911 system is not intended for minor injuries or general medical questions. DPH says those seeking general advice or wishing to be tested for COVID-19 should not call 911.**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that Massachusetts 2-1-1., a 24-hour telephone hotline, will now provide real-time COVID-19 information, resources, and referrals in multiple languages. <https://mass211.org/> and [www.Buoy.com/mass](http://www.Buoy.com/mass) for residents to check their symptoms and connect with the next appropriate health care resource

### **General Information:**

Please remember to wear personal protective gear when out in the public. When you are through with the protective gear, please remember to properly dispose of them.

One final thought or suggestion! You might want to call and check on an elderly neighbor or family member to make sure they are okay. We know these are very difficult times, but remember to cherish each moment spent with loved ones.

Very truly yours,  
Michael A. Maresco  
Town Administrator

**P.S. The pinnacle of the steeple on the top of Town Hall will be lit in red to recognize and thank our first responders.**

